WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A data entry method comprising:

in a computer-based data record including a plurality of data fields, defining one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired;

contacting a data source in possession of the desired field data; and

receiving the desired field data from the data source.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising updating the computer-based data record to include the desired field data.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the computer-based data record is a medical record.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the data source is a patient and the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of the patient.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein contacting a data source includes:

authenticating the data source.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein authenticating the data source includes:

requiring that the data source enter an electronic password; and

receiving the electronic password.

7.   The method of claim 5 wherein authenticating the data source includes:

requiring that the data source speak a verbal password

receiving the verbal password.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein authenticating the data source includes:

      requiring that the data source provide an authenticating digital certificate

      receiving the authenticating digital certificate.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein contacting a data source includes:

      transmitting an email to the data source.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein contacting a data source further includes:

      providing the data source with text-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein contacting a data source includes:

      telephonically contacting the data source.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein contacting a data source includes:

      providing the data source with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable.

14. A data entry method comprising:

in a computer-based medical record including a plurality of data fields, defining one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired, wherein the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of a patient;

telephonically contacting the patient;

receiving the desired field data from the patient; and

updating the computer-based medical record to include the desired field data.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein telephonically contacting the patient includes:

authenticating the patient.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein authenticating the patient includes:

requiring that the patient enter an electronic password; and

receiving the electronic password.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein authenticating the patient includes:

requiring that the patient speak a verbal password

receiving the verbal password.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein telephonically contacting the patient includes:

providing the patient with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

19. The method of claim 14 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable.

20. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

in a computer-based data record including a plurality of data fields, define one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired;

contact a data source in possession of the desired field data; and

receive the desired field data from the data source.

21. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising instructions for updating the computer-based data record to include the desired field data.

22. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the computer-based data record is a medical record.

23. The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the data source is a patient and the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of the patient.

24. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:

authenticating the data source.

25. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for authenticating the data source include instructions for:

requiring that the data source enter an electronic password; and

receiving the electronic password.

26. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for

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authenticating the data source include instructions for:

requiring that the data source speak a verbal password

receiving the verbal password.

27. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for authenticating the data source include instructions for:

requiring that the data source provide an authenticating digital certificate

receiving the authenticating digital certificate.

28. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:

transmitting an email to the data source.

29. The computer program product of claim 28 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source further include instructions for:

providing the data source with text-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

30. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:

telephonically contacting the data source.

31. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:

providing the data source with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

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32.   The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable.

33.   A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

in a computer-based medical record including a plurality of data fields, define one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired, wherein the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of a patient;

telephonically contact the patient;

receive the desired field data from the patient;

update the computer-based medical record to include the desired field data.

34.   The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the instructions for telephonically contacting the patient include instructions for:

authenticating the patient.

35.   The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the instructions for authenticating the patient include instructions for:

requiring that the patient enter an electronic password; and

receiving the electronic password.

36.   The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the instructions for authenticating the patient include instructions for:

requiring that the patient speak a verbal password

receiving the verbal password.

37.   The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the instructions for telephonically contacting the patient include instructions for:

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providing the patient with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

38.   The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable.